

THE RUBIACEOUS GENUS MUSSAENDA:
A NEW SPECIES FROM NORTH BURMA

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IN AN EARLIER PAPER¹ the species of *Mussaenda* of India and Ceylon were treated in some detail. Since completion of that study there has come to my attention the new species described here which I am glad to name after its collector, the renowned plant explorer and author, Francis Kingdon-Ward, F. L. S.

Mussaenda Kingdon-wardii, sp. nov.

Frutex, ramis parce erectis, pubescentibus, foliis apicem versus aggregatis; foliis oppositis, coriaceis, lineari-lanceolatis, 5.5–10 cm. longis, 0.8–1.6 cm. latis, utrinque attenuatis, apice acuminatis, basi in petiolum canaliculatum, hirsutum, 0.5–1 cm. longum, attenuatis; laminae facie supra glabra, infra venis prominentibus pubescentibusque ornata; stipulis parvis, 5–7.5 mm. longis, 3–4 mm. latis, late triangulari-lanceolatis, apice usque ad medium divaricato-bifidis, extus in medio et marginibus pubescentibus, intus glabris excepto supra basin et inter glandulas. Inflorescentiae terminales, pauciflorae, cymosae; bracteis lanceolatis, 5.5 mm. longis, acuminatis, extus pubescentibus, intus glabris; floribus tubulosis, aurantiacis, pedicellis rigidis, pubescentibus, quam ovariis brevioribus; calyce 5-lobato, parvo, lanceolato-acuminato, 4–4.5 mm. longo extus hirsuto, intus ad basin loborum glandulis geminis donato; sepalo petaloideo albo, ovato, 3–3.5 cm. longo, 2 cm. lato, apice acuto, basi cuneato, utrinque glabro, excepto venis principalibus marginibusque, “petiolo” 1.5 cm. longo, pubescenti; tubulo corollae extus pubescenti, intus basin versus glabro; lobis corollae et staminibus non visis; ovario inferiori, 3.2 mm. longi, obconico-fusiformi, 2-loculari, placentis pulviniformibus axillaribusque. Stylus stigmaque etiam non visi; fructibus subglobosis, 8 mm. longis, 6 mm. latis, lenticellatis, parce pubescentibus, lobis calycis deciduis; seminibus minutis, reticulatis, oblongis vel ovoideis, sine spinulis, 0.7–0.8 mm. longis.

Shrub with somewhat erect pubescent branches bearing leaves clustered towards their apices. Leaves opposite, leathery, linear-lanceolate, acuminate, attenuate at base, 5.5–10 cm. long, 0.8–1.6 cm. broad, glabrous on the upper surface, pubescent on veins and venules below, the 8 or 9 pairs of veins prominent on the lower surface and arcuate; petiole 0.5–1 cm. long, hirsute and grooved along the upper surface. Stipules small, 5–7.5

¹ The rubiaceous genus *Mussaenda*: the species of India and Ceylon. Jour. Arnold Arb. 44: 232–267. 1963.

mm. long, 3–4 mm. broad at the base, triangular-lanceolate, bifid about the upper half of their length, the rami diverging, pubescent on the outer surface along the center and the margin, glabrous within except at the base and among the glands. Inflorescence a terminal, few flowered, dichotomous cyme; bracts lanceolate, 5.5 mm. long, acuminate and hairy on the outer surface, glabrous within. Flowers tubular, orange, on stout



FIG. 1. *Mussaenda Kingdon-wardii*: A, branch with leaves and petaloid sepals $\times \frac{1}{2}$; B, stipule seen from abaxial surface $\times 4\frac{1}{2}$; C, same as B from adaxial surface showing glands and hairs $\times 4\frac{1}{2}$; D, bract $\times 3\frac{1}{2}$; E, calyx lobes from within, $\times 3\frac{1}{2}$; F, young and mature berries $\times \frac{1}{2}$; G, seed showing the areoles and foveae of the testa, $\times 20$, all from *Kingdon-Ward 21707* (BM).

pubescent pedicels shorter than the ovaries. Calyx lobes 5, small, lance-acuminate, 4–4.5 mm. long, hairy on the outer surface and with one or two pairs of glands at the base of each, inside; petaloid sepal white, ovate, 3–3.5 cm. long, 2 cm. broad, acute at apex, cuneate at base, glabrous on both surfaces except along the main veins and the margins, "petiole" 1.5 cm. long, pubescent. Corolla tube pubescent on the outer surface, glabrous within towards the base; corolla lobes and stamens not seen. Ovary inferior, 3.2 mm. long, obconic-fusiform, pubescent, 2-locular with numerous ovules on cushion-shaped axile placentae; style and stigma not seen. Berry spherical, 8 mm. long, 6 mm. broad, lenticellate, scantily pubescent, calyx lobes deciduous; seeds minute, not spiny-reticulate, oblong or ovoid, 0.7–0.8 mm. long with 6–12 foveae in each areole of the testa.

DISTRIBUTION. *Mussaenda Kingdon-wardii* is an endemic species which grows in thickets along the river bed below the high water mark southeast of Sumprabum, at an elevation of 300–400 m. above sea level.

The type collection of *Mussaenda Kingdon-wardii* consists of two sheets. The holotype (BM) has two specimens, one in flower but flowers not available for examination, excepting the lower part of one flower, and the other in fruit; the isotype (A) is in fruit only. Only one collection seems to have been made of this species. It resembles *Mussaenda glabra* var. 2 of Hooker but the leaves are coriaceous and scantily pubescent. *Mussaenda Kingdon-wardii* is easily distinguished from other species of the genus by its linear-lanceolate leaves which are glabrous and shining above and pubescent on veins beneath, and by its small, scantily pubescent, lenticellate berries with dehiscent calyx.

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LAZELLA SCHWARTEN
CIRCULATION



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A6

Final specimen

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